

## **Opening Statement**

**Edolphus “Ed” Towns, Chairman  
Full Committee  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform**

**“Status of the 2010 Census Operations”  
Information Policy, Census, and National Archives Subcommittee**

**Thursday, March 5, 2009  
2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building  
10:00 A.M.**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Census is a top priority for the Committee, and I will be following it very closely.

A fair and accurate census is the only way we have to ensure fair apportionment of members of the House and distribution of vital services to those who need them most. Past censuses left some people out while over-counting others; we won't accept that this time.

Chairman Clay and I share the goal of making sure that everyone is counted fairly next year, as the law requires. This is a monumental task, but we have to get it right. The entire country—now over 300 million strong—is counting on us.

There is no question that the Census is a sensitive issue from a political point of view, because it has a direct impact on how seats are apportioned among the states for this body, the House of Representatives. But my goal is for the committee to carry out its oversight work in a responsible, nonpartisan manner. I hope we can keep our focus on the management practices that will make the census as accurate as possible, and not get caught up in any political maneuvering.

I look forward to working with Chairman Clay and other members of the Subcommittee and the full Committee as we continue our extensive oversight of this critical function. This won't be the last time you hear from us on the Census; we aren't going away.